

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to the cloning,
5 sequencing and expression of homologous immunoreactive 28-kDa
protein genes, *p28-1*, -2, -3, -5, -6, -7, -9, from a polymorphic
multiple gene family of *Ehrlichia canis*. Further disclosed is a
multigene locus encoding all nine homologous 28-kDa protein genes
of *Ehrlichia canis*. Recombinant *Ehrlichia canis* 28-kDa proteins
10 react with convalescent phase antiserum from an *E. canis*-infected
dog, and may be useful in the development of vaccines and
serodiagnostics that are particularly effective for disease prevention
and serodiagnosis.